

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 IO-13 SAJ-01

OMB-01 /078 W

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O P 130852Z SEP 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6362

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1820

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PFOR CH

SUBJECT: DEATH OF MAO TSE TUNG

REF: PEKING 1801

1. SITUATION IN PEKING AS OF 1600 HOURS LOCAL SEPTEMBER 13.
2. TELEVISION SEPTEMBER 12 CARRIED FIRST FOOTAGE OF MAO'S LYING IN STATE. ENTIRE POLITBURO (WITH EXCEPTION OF AILING LIU PO-CHENG) SHOWN FILING INTO GREAT HALL SEPTEMBER 11, LED BY HUA KUO-FENG. CHIANG CHING IN WIDOW'S BLACK TAKES HER PLACE IN RANK ORDER, BEHIND FOUR-MEMBER STANDING COMMITTEE AND NPC VICE CHAIRMAN SOONG CHING-LING. CHIANG CHING'S ROLE AS THE WIDOW IS BROUGHT OUT BY HER ATTIRE AND BY FOOTAGE GIVEN WREATH FROM HER

AND OTHER MAO KIN AT THE FOOT OF THE BIER (SHE ALSO SENT WREATH AS POLITBURO MEMBER). SHE IS NOT SHOWN RECEIVING CONDOLENCES,
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HOWEVER. APPARENTLY OCCASION ON WHICH THIS HAPPENED IS NOT

TO BE PART OF THE PUBLIC RECORD, IN CONTRAST TO FILM TREATMENT OF CHOU AND CHU FUNERALS. MADAME CHOU, BY THE WAY, IS AMONG THE MOURNERS SHOWN BUT NOT NAMED.

3. SCENE IN PEKING'S STREETS REMAINS CALM AND MOST PEOPLE SEEM UNEMOTIONAL, BUT EXTENDED MOURNING IS BEGINNING TO GIVE RISE TO OPEN DISPLAYS OF GRIEF, PARTICULARLY AMONG TELEVISION VIEWERS. IN GENERAL TELEVISION COVERAGE GIVES A VERY STRONG PLAY TO POPULAR GRIEF, THOUGH MAINLY IN RITUAL SETTING.

4. ENLARGED PEOPLE'S DAILY, NOW APPEARING ALMOST 12 HOURS LATE, CONTINUES TO PRINT MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE FROM PROVINCIAL UNITS AND FROM FOREIGN GOVERNMENT LEADERS AND COMMUNIST PARTIES AND PICTURES OF MAO. SEPTEMBER 12 EDITION ALSO INCLUDES CLOSE-UPS OF CHAIRMAN MAO ON BIER. LEAD ARTICLE RECOUNTING MOURNING OBSERVANCES NOTES THAT LEADERS OF CHINA'S EASTERN PROVINCES, INCLUDING ALL ACTIVE FIRST SECRETARIES AND MILITARY REGION COMMANDERS, HAVE ARRIVED IN PEKING AND PAID RESPECTS AT GREAT HALL SEPTEMBER 11. WE PRESUME OTHER PROVINCIAL LEADERS HAVE DONE THE SAME AND WILL BE CITED IN FORTHCOMING ISSUES.

5. NCNA ENGLISH TODAY'S DATE CARRIED FULL TEXT OF PRESIDENT FORD'S CONDOLENCE MESSAGE.

6. USLO IS TO PAY LAST RESPECTS AT ABOUT 1700 HOURS SEPTEMBER 13, ALONG WITH A NUMBER OF EMBASSIES. GATES

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Message Attributes

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